



# CITY OF HOUSTON

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Mayor

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To: All Candidates

Subject: Campaign Contributions

Attached is a copy of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances. A summary of some key provisions follows:

- Candidates will be required to file a comprehensive personal financial statement on or before September 14, 2015. See §145.004(c), Texas Local Government Code. The statement will cover the period from January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014. See Article III of Chapter 18, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- Political contributions may not be delivered in any city owned or operated building or facility. See §18-32, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- Political contributions may not be solicited on behalf of any candidate by any member of the following boards or commissions who is appointed to the board or commission by the City of Houston, nor may candidates accept political contributions that were solicited by such persons (see §18-33(a), (b), CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES):
  - Houston Ethics Commission
  - Houston Planning Commission
  - Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)
  - Port of Houston Authority of Harris County
  - Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Board
- Subject to change as terms expire and members resign from time to time, the following are appointees of the City as of June 22, 2015:

Houston Ethics Commission	
Amy Dunn Taylor	Position 1
Ingrid Vazquez	Position 2
Eugene Boisaubin	Position 3
Franklin Jones	Position 4
Marsha Fisk	Position 5
Nomaan Husain	Position 6, Chair
John Jay Douglass	Position 7

Council Members: Brenda Stardig Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Dwight A. Boykins Dave Martin Richard Nguyen Oliver Pennington Edward Gonzalez  
Robert Gallegos Mike Laster Larry V. Green Stephen C. Costello David W. Robinson Michael Kubosh C.O. "Brad" Bradford Jack Christie  
Controller: Ronald C. Green

<b>Houston Planning Commission</b>	
Martha "Marty" Stein	Position 1
Truman Edminster, III	Position 2
James Jard	Position 3
Susan Alleman	Position 4
Mark Kilkenny	Position 5
Fernando Brave	Position 6
Blake Tartt III	Position 7
Vacant	Position 8
Lisa Clark	Position 9
Kenneth J. Bohan	Position 10
Shaukat Zakaria	Position 11
Algenita Scott Davis	Position 12
Eileen Subinsky	Position 13
Mark Sikes	Position 14
Edward Emmett	Position 15
Edward Chance	Position 16
James Prestage	Position 17
Paul Nelson	Position 18
Linda Porras-Pirtle	Position 19
Antoine Bryant	Position 20
Medardo "Sonny" Garza	Position 21
Raymond Anderson	Alternate, Position 15
Mark Mooney	Alternate, Position 16
D. Jesse Hegemier	Alternate, Position 17
<b>Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (City's appointees)</b>	
Gilbert Andrew Garcia	Position 1, Chair
Sanjay Ramabhadran	Position 2
Barron Wallace	Position 3
Diann L. Lewter	Position 4
Christof Spieler	Position 5
<b>Port of Houston Authority of Harris County (City's appointees)</b>	
Dean Corgey	Position 1
Theldon R. Branch, III	Position 2
Janiece M. Longoria	Position 7, Chair
<b>Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Board (City's appointees)</b>	
J. Kent Friedman	Chair
Philamena Baird	Position 1
Chau Nguyen Todd	Position 2
Pamela Gardner	Position 3
Matthew Rogers, Jr.	Position 4
Gregory D. Compean	Position 5
Stephen M. Fraga	Position 11

- Solicitation of political contributions by City employees during their work hours is restricted. See §18-33(c), CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- The acceptance of political contributions from persons who have litigation pending against the City is restricted. See §18-34, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- The acceptance of political contributions from City contractors is restricted. See §18-36, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, the definitions of “contract award period” and “contractor” in §18-31, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, and the definitions of “contract” and “contractor” in §18-2, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. It is necessary to check the weekly City Council agendas in order to determine which persons may not make political contributions at any given time. Additionally, the City Secretary maintains and posts a contractor list to assist candidates with compliance.
- The City is enjoined from enforcing the temporal ban on soliciting or receiving contributions in §18-35(a), CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. See *Gordon v. City of Houston*, C.A. No. 14-03146 (S.D. Tex. January 9, 2015). Thus, candidates for City office are not restricted on when they can raise funds and solicit contributions, except for the limitation on contractor contributions during the contract award period.
- The use of campaign funds to reimburse or repay personal loans is restricted, and the amount allowed depends upon the office that is sought. See §18-37, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- There is an aggregate contribution limit of \$5,000 per election for contributors other than political action committees; and a \$10,000 per election aggregate contribution limit for political action committees, including “coordinated campaign expenditures.” Contributions raised in connection with non-city elective public office can be transferred in compliance with these limits. See §18-38, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The foregoing is intended only as a summary. It is the responsibility of each candidate to comply with local and state election laws. Each violation is punishable by a penal fine of up to \$500 and continuing violations are a separate offense for each day. See §§18-41, 1-6, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Attachment (Chapter 18, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES)